TVA

TIME VARIANCE AUTHORITY

For All Time, Always

MARVEL

BLAIR
PÉREZ
GURU-eFX

"Captures the charm of the *Loki* series while carving out its own identity with a dynamic team and engaging premise."

– *AIPT*

WELCOME TO THE TIME VARIANCE AUTHORITY!

The TVA has long watched over the timeline, protecting it from dangerous variations that could cause the end of everything. Now, as the organization begins to expand its tolerance of variants, it's enlisted some new recruits from timelines that have been wiped from existence: CAPTAIN PEGGY CARTER, Super-Soldier of her world; GAMBIT, despondent and aimless from the loss of his lady love; and…this can't be right…GHOST-SPIDER?! Has her world been destroyed?! With the TVA haunted by dreams, the team's hunt for the truth leads them straight to Hell – literally! Does the Son of Satan have the answers they need? Or perhaps the mysterious stranger following Gwen and Gambit has something to reveal? Then, when a murderer stalks the halls of the TVA, is anyone safe? Or perhaps more important, can anyone be trusted? The solution could lie in the secret floors below the R&D department – but with the TVA denying their existence, the field team will soon find out that some dangers should never be uncovered!

"Blair does a great job making each character feel like their own while making them mesh really well as a team."

– Nerd Initiative

MARVEL T+

Collecting *TVA #1-5* – by Katharyn Blair, Ryan North, Pere Pérez, Enid Balám, GURU-eFX and Rachelle Rosenberg

TVA

TIME VARIANCE AUTHORITY

For All Time, Always

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A near-endless bureaucracy created in the far future and now existing outside of time and reality, the Time Variance Authority has appointed themselves the guardians of all time, always. While their position in the Null-Time Zone does make discussions of their "history" difficult, they have, in past moments in the history of Earth-616, proven to be strict stewards of time travel and averse to the alteration of their "sacred timeline." More recently, however, the organization has experienced an upheaval due in part to the intercession of a variant trickster god. That is a story for another time—but suffice to say, the TVA has entered a new era of welcoming all timelines and people… including those who fall between the cracks of reality.

TIME VARIANCE AUTHORITY

For All Time, Always

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ONE

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...

...MY THIGH HOLSTER IS BADASS. I AGREE.

WELCOME TO THE TVA. THINGS ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT AROUND HERE THESE DAYS.

IT'S A LONG STORY.

SORRY... LINE?

YOU'RE KIDDIN', RIGHT? THIS IS THE THIRD TAKE, GWENDOLYN.

IT'S JUST GWEN--

"PEOPLE LIKE ME--PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO HOME TIMELINE ANYMORE--CAN NOW SERVE A BIGGER PURPOSE."

...THAT'S NOT *ENTIRELY* TRUE, BUT FOR ALL MISS MINUTES KNOWS...THAT ABOUT COVERS IT.

I'M ACTUALLY HIDING OUT HERE AFTER AN INCIDENT ON MY HOME TIMELINE.* AND TO AVOID QUESTIONS, I SIGNED UP TO HELP LAUNCH THE *"NEW AND IMPROVED TVA."*

CAN'T YOU DO SOMEONE ELSE TODAY, MISS MINUTES?

NO ONE HAS ASKED TOO MANY QUESTIONS SO FAR. THAT'S ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS PLACE THAT HASN'T CHANGED... TITLE CHANGES GET LOST IN AGENCIES LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME. BLAME THE PAPERWORK.

MOBIUS!!!

*FOR MORE INFO, CHECK OUT THE CURRENT ***SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER*** SERIES TO SEE HOW O.B. GOT GWEN WRAPPED UP IN TVA BUSINESS! --JDW

YONKKK

GWEN!!!

I'VE ALREADY TRIED. HE'S BEING A PILL AND DOESN'T WANT TO DO IT.

YOU WENT ROGUE AND TRIED TO KILL ME. AND EVERYONE ELSE IN HERE. AND YOU JUICED A BUNCH OF MY COLLEAGUES.

YOU *KNOW* THAT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE CODING ERROR.

B-15 SAID WE NEED MORE RECRUITS.

WHICH IS WHY I'M HELPING HERE AND NOT STUCK IN SOME CLOSET SOMEWHERE UNTIL THEY FIND ANOTHER WAY TO DEAL WITH ME.

COME ON. WE HAVE A SERIOUS PR PROBLEM--

BECAUSE OUR MASCOT IS A HOMICIDAL CLOCK?

--BECAUSE WE USED TO PRUNE ENTIRE TIMELINES IN THE NAME OF THE ONE SACRED TIMELINE.

THEN YOU AND YOUR *BUDDY* FIGURED OUT THAT THE TIMEKEEPERS, THE ONES CALLING THE SHOTS, WEREN'T REAL.

AND THEN THAT SAME *BUDDY* DESTROYED THE TEMPORAL LOOM, FREEING EVERY TIMELINE, AND THEN B-15 LET PEOPLE DECIDE TO LEAVE OR STAY. IT'S A MESS.

YOU FORGOT THE PART WHERE MY PARTNER SAVED EVERYONE AT THE COST OF HIS OWN LIFE.

NO ONE FORGOT THAT, MOBIUS.

BUT MISS MINUTES IS RIGHT. WE COULD USE ALL THE MORALE BOOSTING WE CAN GET. THIS NEW TVA IS STILL FINDING ITS FOOTING. NEW FACES, NEW RULES.

SAME OLD PAINS IN THE ASS THOUGH, B-15.

I HEARD THAT--

I USED TO TRY TO STOP THEM FROM BICKERING. NOW I JUST USE IT AS AN EXCUSE TO SNEAK AWAY--

--BECAUSE SOMETIMES, IT'S NICE TO JUST BE ALONE.

AND THIS PLACE IS BIG ENOUGH TO GET LOST IN.

TIME VARIANCE AUTHORITY

MISS MINUTES CAN BE KIND OF HARSH, BUT SHE ISN'T *WRONG*. I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO. HERE I CAN DO SOME GOOD. WIPE OUT THE RED IN MY LEDGER.

DID I MAKE THAT UP? FEELS TOO COOL TO BE MINE. WHATEVER.

FOR ALL ANYONE HERE KNOWS, I DON'T HAVE A PLACE ON THE TIMELINE ANYMORE. BUT O.B. AND I KNOW THE TRUTH. I'M HIDING HERE. AND SINCE I DON'T DO *"LIE LOW"* VERY WELL...WE FIGURED I MIGHT AS WELL BE USEFUL.

AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT GUY. ***LOKI***--OR A VERSION OF HIM, ANYWAY. HE HAS A WHOLE STORY HERE. I DON'T HAVE THE PAGE COUNT TO GO INTO IT ALL.

BUT HE SAVED THIS PLACE...AND NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE.

HE WAS THE FIRST OUTSIDE RECRUIT, SO THAT GAVE B-15 AND MOBIUS THE IDEA TO LET ALL OF US STRAYS TAKE A CRACK AT HELPING OUT.

AND SOMETIMES, I REWARD MYSELF FOR HELPING OUT BY TAKING--

--A PIE BREAK.

O.B.'S STAR PUPIL, SNEAKING OFF FOR A SECOND PIECE OF PIE BEFORE LUNCH.

JOKE'S ON YOU--I SNARFED A SANDWICH AT MOBIUS'S DESK, SO TECHNICALLY THIS IS *AFTER*-LUNCH PIE.

HE WAS LOOKING FOR THAT SANDWICH.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED TO KNOW BACKSTORY, AND THEN THERE'S JIMMY HUDSON.

HE DOESN'T ASK ME ABOUT MY GHOSTS, AND I DON'T ASK HIM ABOUT HIS. WE'RE HERE TO MAKE NEW FUTURES, NOT DWELL ON WHAT'S DONE.

LIKE *FOLIE À DEUX*, BUT FOR BLIND OPTIMISM.

BUT HE'S GOT KIND OF AN OBVIOUS TELL...

PIES

SWIPE

SO...WOLVERINE VARIANT? WOLVERINE'S LONG-LOST KID? I DON'T WANT TO RUIN OUR CHARMING DYNAMIC BY ASKING.

KNOCK KNOCK--

AUTOMAT

INGRID! SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

WE WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT YOU. WE WEREN'T TALKING AT ALL.

DO YOU KNOW HOW THAT TURN OF PHRASE WORKS, GWEN?

"THINK OF 'THE FAVORITE TVA AGENT' AND SHE SHALL STEAL PIE."

BETTER?

PIES

BRING YOUR OWN CUP

IF YOU FORGOT IT REMEMBER IT NEXT TIME

WE DO NOT PROVIDE CUPS OR EMPLOY DISHWASHERS

TVA Autocad

STILL *NOT QUITE* NAILING IT. I'M JUST AN *INTERN*. SO CLOSE THOUGH.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH SUGAR, GWENIE. AND I HAVE THE CURE FOR THAT...

CLINK

YOU KNOW? I THINK THEY SHOULD BRING THOSE PRUNE STICKS BACK. JUST A LIMITED-TIME THING FOR MOMENTS LIKE THIS.

WE'RE NEEDED IN R&D.

BEEP

YOU GOT SOME CRUMBS ON YOUR CHIN.

THWAPPP

CAPTAIN BRITAIN-- PEGGY! MISS MINUTES SAID YOU WEREN'T FILMING YOUR TRAUMA DUMP UNTIL TOMORROW.

GWEN.

RIGHT. SORRY. YOUR "*SAD HEROES UNITE*" PSA.

I'M HERE FOR A MORE SERIOUS REASON, I'M AFRAID.

INGRID. DO YOU KNOW WHERE I PUT THAT TEMPORAL MODULATOR?

THIRD DRAWER FROM THE LEFT, O.B.

SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ELABORATE... MOST THINGS THAT HAPPEN AROUND HERE FALL UNDER THE CATEGORY OF *"STRANGE"*.

PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING REALLY INTENSE... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO CALL THEM. ***PANIC ATTACKS?***

THEY'RE GOING INTO TRANCES AND SEEING THEIR ***WORST FEARS COME*** TO LIFE IN FRONT OF THEM.

WHICH TIMELINE IS EXPERIENCING THE ISSUE?

THAT'S THE PROBLEM. IT ISN'T JUST ONE TIMELINE. IT'S ***DOZENS*** OF THEM.

DOZENS?

AND THAT NUMBER COULD BE HIGHER, FOR ALL WE KNOW. THE NUMBER IS GROWING EVERY DAY. PEOPLE ARE CALLING IT "*THE MADNESS.*" AND THERE'S MORE...

THERE ALWAYS IS.

WHAT THESE PEOPLE ARE SEEING DIFFERS. SOME SEE DEAD LOVED ONES, SOME RELIVE OLD MISTAKES. BUT THEY ***ALL*** SEE GLIMPSES OF THE TVA.

AND WE'VE CHECKED THEIR DESCRIPTIONS OF WHAT THEY'VE SEEN. PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN HERE CAN GIVE DESCRIPTIONS OF OFFICES. HALLWAYS. IT'S LIKE THEY'VE WALKED THROUGH THIS PLACE.

OKAY. THAT'S WEIRD, BUT WE HANDLE WEIRD. IT'S WHAT WE DO. LET'S JOT DOWN SOME POSSIBLE CULPRITS... A SPELL?

A SICKNESS, MAYBE?

UM...YOU'RE FORGETTING THE WORST OPTION ON A LONG LIST OF BAD OPTIONS.

IT COULD BE AN ***INCURSION***. TIMELINES GETTING TANGLED.

BUT THE TIMELINES ARE FREE AND SAFE. LOKI...

WHATEVER LOKI DID, HE MADE SURE THE TIMELINES WERE ALL IN WORKING ORDER. I WOULD BET MY LAST DOLLAR THAT INCURSIONS AREN'T THE CULPRIT.

OKAY! TEAM BRAINSTORMING SESSION!

WHOOOOOOSH

SO, OPTION ONE... INCURSIONS.

÷SIGH÷

IS HE HAPPY...OR TERRIFIED?

BOTH, PROBABLY. O.B. HAS A WAY OF MAKING EVEN THE WORST THINGS SOUND EXCITING. I'VE HEARD HIM TALK ABOUT EBOLA LIKE THIS.

TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE SICKNESS IS OPTION TWO... WHAT IS OPTION THREE?

SPELL.

HORRIFIC FEAR SPELL! GOT IT. OTHER IDEAS?

BUT PEOPLE ARE SEEING *THE REAL TVA*, SO...

THERE'S AN INTELLIGENCE BEHIND THIS.

COULD IT BE A BREACH IN REALITY? SOMEONE BREAKING IN FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION?

DOESN'T THE TVA HAVE PROTECTIONS AGAINST THAT KIND OF THING?

WE *DID!* BUT ACCOMMODATING ALL THE NEW TIMELINES MEANT MAKING SOME SACRIFICES IN OUR SECURITY MEASURES.

WE COULD PERFECTLY POLICE ONE TIMELINE. INFINITE ONES? NOT SO MUCH. SO...IT COULD BE?

WELL. WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO CHASE THE HORRIFIC SPELL-FLU THING!

WAIT. IF IT'S AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS, YOU MIGHT NEED MORE HELP...

DID WE ONBOARD A NEW RECRUIT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT?

LET'S JUST CALL IT THE ACE UP MY SLEEVE...

SOME HUNTERS PICKED HIM UP FOR BEING DRUNK AND DISORDERLY ON HIS TIMELINE.

WHO IS DISORDERLY ENOUGH WHEN DRUNK ENOUGH TO WARRANT A VISIT FROM THE TVA?

SOMEONE WHO MIGHT NEED A LITTLE *CONVINCING*...

YOU SHOULD ALL KNOW BETTER THAN TO DISRUPT MY BEAUTY SLEEP.

WE COME TO OFFER YOU A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR STORY WAS BEFORE, YOU CAN STILL DO SOME GOOD--

ZZZIIIPPPPPPPPP

JERK.

I MEAN, HE DIDN'T MAKE IT EXPLODE? THAT'S SOMETHING...

JERK.

BOOM

ON SOME TIMELINE OUT THERE, THERE'S A ME THAT DIDN'T LOSE *MA CHÈRE*. MAYBE HE'LL BE MORE HELP.

REMY LEBEAU, I HAVE ABOUT HAD IT WITH THIS BROODY #$%&#$%&... YOU LOST SOMEONE? JOIN THE CLUB.

HEARTBREAK IS PRACTICALLY A PREREQUISITE HERE.

BUT WE ARE IN A BIT OF A MESS, AND WE NEED HELP.

IF YOU WON'T DO IT OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF YOUR HEART--

THE GOODNESS OF MY HEART DIED WITH ***HER***. YOU CAN STOP TRYING TO APPEAL TO SOMETHING THAT ISN'T THERE.

I'LL GIVE YOU ACCESS TO THE KITCHEN.

AND I'LL GET DEEP FRYERS SO YOU CAN MAKE PROPER BEIGNETS.

LET'S GO KICK SOME ASS.

SO YOU CAN SIT IN THE DARK FOR EONS IN A PLACE WHERE TIME DOESN'T MOVE AND EAT THE CAFETERIA FOOD, OR YOU CAN DO SOMETHING USEFUL. SOMETHING SHE WOULD HAVE LOVED.

SANTA CRUZ, CA,
EARTH-93.

THIS DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE PLACE FOR A FEAR FLU. MOTION SICKNESS, SURE.

THIS IS WHERE THE LATEST ATTACK HAPPENED.

THE READINGS ARE STRONG HERE. WHATEVER IT WAS, IT'S CLOSE.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. LET'S SPREAD OUT. SWEEP THE AREA AND MEET BACK AT THE FERRIS WHEEL.

COPY THAT, CAPTAIN.

THE MARY JANES

HEY, GAMBIT. YOU THINK BEIGNETS ARE GOOD?

TRY THESE.

DEEP FRIE

TWO, PLEASE.

THAT WAS A GOOD SHOT EARLIER.

YOU'RE ASSUMING I MEANT TO HIT THE WALL.

TWO DEEP-FRIED OREOS...

OH, HELLO, SUGAH.

I SHOULDN'T BE FREAKED OUT BY MIRRORS. IT'S JUST GLASS. SUPER EASY TO BREAK.

BUT I'M A TEENAGE GIRL, SO. IF I WAS GOING TO PICK SOMETHING TO TERRIFY ME, IT WOULD BE...ME, RIGHT?

HELLO?

GUYS? I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING.

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ

OKAY. BLOND ALL ALONE. PHONE IS DEAD. VERY '90s HORROR. NOT LOVING IT.

WHAT IS YOUR GAME PLAN HERE, GWEN? JUST STAY OFF THE TIMELINES SO YOU CAN'T HURT ANYONE?

THERE'S NOWHERE YOU CAN GO WHERE YOU WON'T BREAK THINGS, GWEN...

YOU LET ME *DIE!*

DON'T LISTEN TO IT, GAMBIT!!!

SNIKT!

THWAK

ARGH!

SWISH

MOVE, HUDSON!

CRUNCH!

KLANG

CAPTAIN? WHAT A FARCE.

SHUNK!

YOU'RE NOT REAL!

HOLD STILL AND YOU'LL FEEL HOW REAL WE ARE, GIRL.

THWIP!

THWIP!

GWEN, COME ON!!! THIS WAY!!!

THWIP

HOLD ON TIGHT!

THROUGH THE TIME DOOR.

BOOM

NO MAJOR INJURIES, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE SORE. YOU NEED REST...ALL OF YOU. DOCTOR'S ORDERS.

LOUD AND CLEAR. THANKS, DOC CLOCK.

I DON'T KNOW IF REST IS IN THE CARDS. THAT WAS WORSE THAN I EXPECTED. THOSE WEREN'T JUST HALLUCINATIONS... THE DAMAGE WAS REAL, AND IT WAS PERSONAL.

WELL, LET'S HOPE THEIR INSURANCE COVERS PERSONAL DEMONS, THEN...

SO, NOT A FLU. NOT AN INCURSION... SOMETHING SMART. SOMETHING WITH A PLAN.

SOMETHING THAT KNEW OUR DEEPEST FEARS.

THAT'S A SILVER LINING. IT KNOWS US. AND THAT GOT ME THINKING. WHO HAS ACCESS TO...DEMONS? PERSONAL, OR OTHERWISE...

I ALREADY DON'T LIKE THIS.

IT'S RISKY, BUT WE MIGHT HAVE TO VENTURE DOWN TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS...

DOWN... AS IN... *HELL?* SERIOUSLY?

OF COURSE I'D MISS OUT ON THE BEACHSIDE CARNIVAL BUT BE ROPED INTO HELL.

I'D USUALLY VOTE WE CHASE THIS NOW, BUT I DON'T WANT TO CROSS DOC CLOCK. SHE'S NEVER WRONG. WE SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP.

RIGHT. GOOD TO BE NICE AND RESTED BEFORE GOING TO THE UNDERWORLD.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

WELCOME TO THE TVA. TIME WORKS DIFFERENTLY HERE.

LEVE

15

14

13

12

HUH?

HELLO?

BUT MAYBE *GHOSTS* ARE THE SAME EVERYWHERE.

THE MARY JANES

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE TVA

WELL, ***HOWDY*** THERE, SWEETHEART! IF Y'ALL ARE READING THIS, Y'ALL ARE IN ONE OF THE TVA'S OWN BATHROOM FACILITIES, DOIN' YOUR THING!

IT'S THE ONE PLACE IN THE TVA WHERE WE ***CAN'T*** SEE YOU!

OR THAT'S WHAT I ***WOULD*** BE SAYIN' IF IT WEREN'T FOR ***SIR SECONDS*** HERE! SAY HI, SIR SECONDS!

OI--SPOT ON, MISS MINUTES.

OIM THE BLOKE IN CHARGE 'A SECURITY ACROSS THE ***ENTIRE*** TVA. AND AS PART 'A MY COMMITMENT TO ***PANOPTIC SURVEILLANCE,*** I SEE EVERYTHING YOU ***DO***...

...EVEN IN THE ***LOO.***

CALM YERSELF, CHUM: I'VE SEEN A MILLION KINDS 'A BITS N' BOBS 'CROSS A MILLION DIFFERENT TIMELINES. FRANKLY, I ***DON'T*** CARE ABOUT 'EM, AND I DON'T SEE HOW THEY'RE WORTH TH' TROUBLE.

BUT THERE IS ONE THING I ***DO*** CARE ABOUT...

OKAY! THANKS FOR MAKIN' USE OF OUR FACILITIES, DARLIN'S!

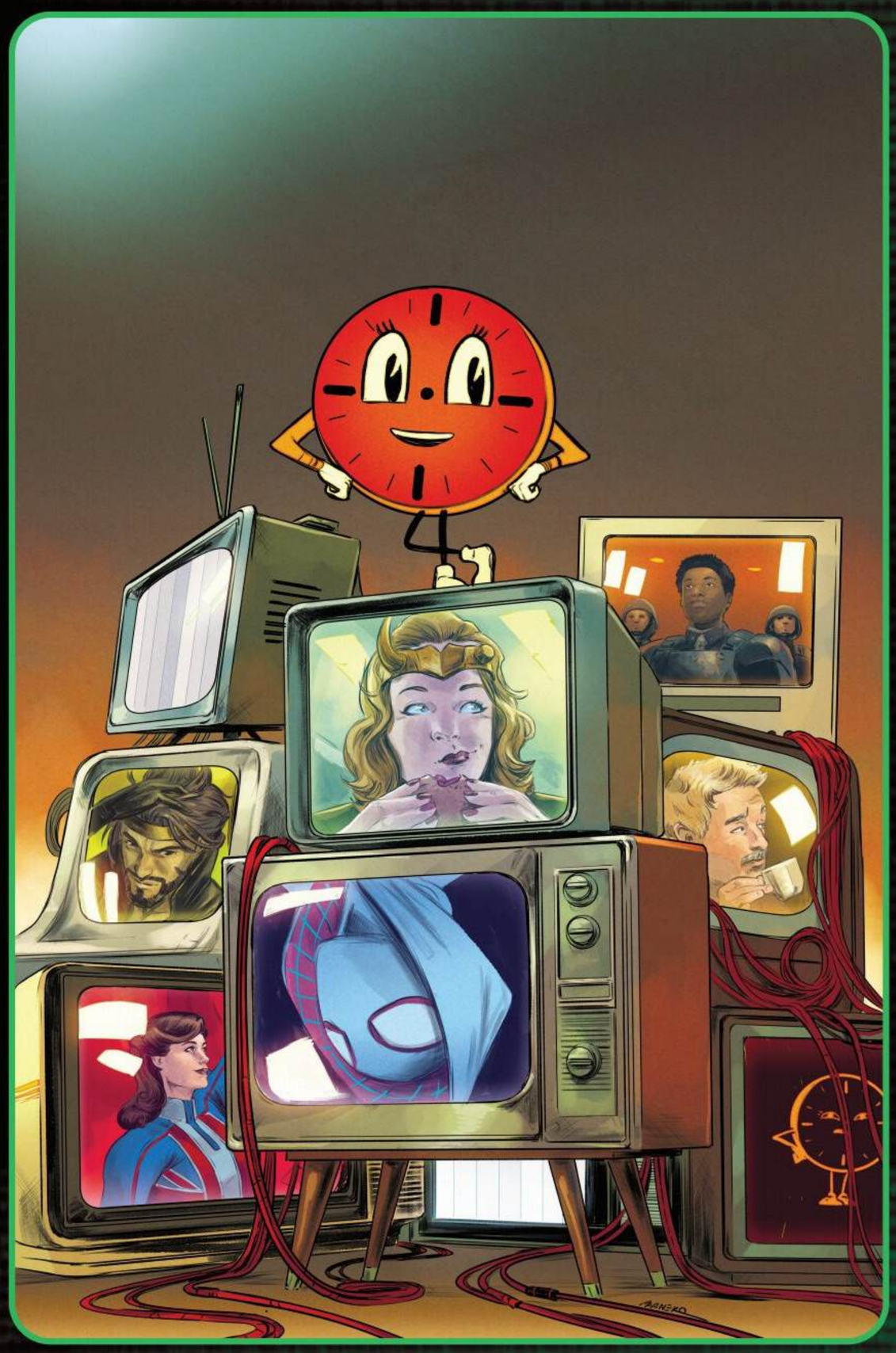
Y'ALLS PAY WILL BE DOCKED ACCORDINGLY!

...AND THAT'S YOU NOT FLUSHING ANY PRODUCTS ***OTHER*** THAN TOILET PAPER, UNDERSTOOD? I DON'T KNOW WHAT TA TELL YA, MATE. WE GOT OLD PIPES.

SO KEEP THAT IN MIND, FRIENDO, AND WE'LL BE TICKETY-BOO.

LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR AUTONOMOUS SELF-MODIFYING SECURITY A.I. HAPPY

RYAN NORTH - WRITER ***ENID BALAM*** - ARTIST ***RACHELLE ROSENBERG*** - COLOR ARTIST ***VC's JOE SABINO*** - LETTERER



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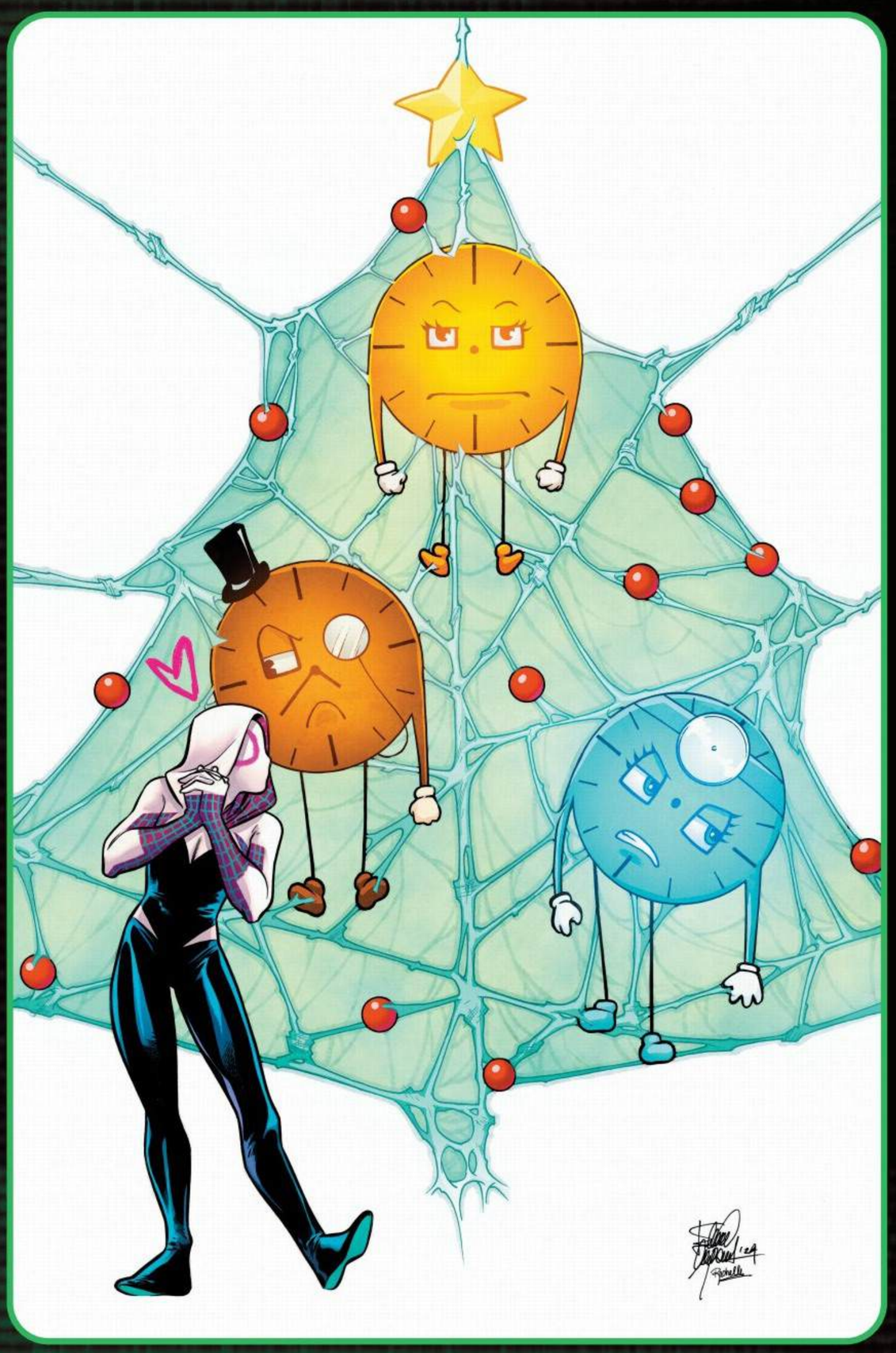

#1 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY
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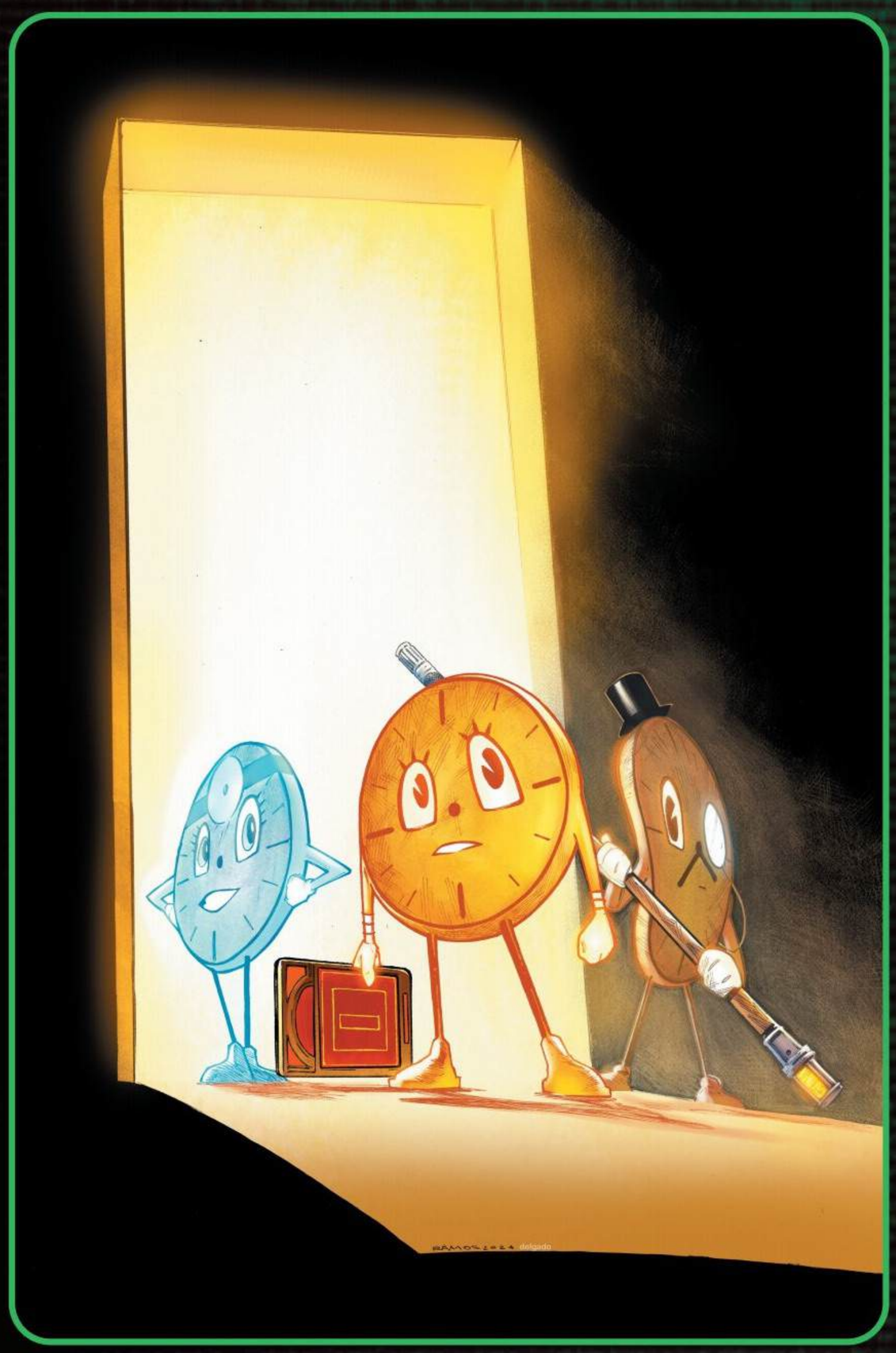

#1 VARIANT BY
HUMBERTO RAMOS

#2 VARIANT BY
ELIZABETH TORQUE & **FEDERICO BLEE**

IF YOU WON'T READ THE LINES, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS SAY SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT THE TVA, MOBIUS.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. THE TEAM IS LITERALLY GOING TO HELL, AND I CANNOT OVERSTATE HOW MUCH I'D PREFER *THAT*.

THE ATTITUDE IS NOT APPRECIATED, SIR.

MAYBE I'LL UNPLUG AND PLUG BACK IN. REBOOT. IT WORKED FOR YOU.

I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE DREAM. IT SEEMED LIKE WE HAD BIGGER FISH TO FRY. AND THE PERFECT PLACE TO FRY THEM!

THRUMMMM

HELL TOWN. EARTH-616.

...THAT'S A BAD JOKE. I SHOULD GET ALL THOSE OUT NOW. I'M NERVOUS. NEVER BEEN TO HELL BEFORE.

HELL TOWN

DON'T SUPPOSE THIS DAIMON DUDE KNOWS WE'RE COMING, INGRID?

HE DOES NOT.

I DON'T THINK MANNERS BE A TOP CONCERN IN THE PLACE OF ETERNAL DAMNATION, *CHÈRE.*

THIS ISN'T THE PLACE OF ETERNAL DAMNATION, GAMBIT.

YOU NEED TO GO BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, FRIEND. WE'RE JUST MISSING THE PITCHFORKS AND A BIG OL' LAKE FULL OF BAD PEOPLE.

YOU SHOULD READ THE MISSION BRIEFING, ***FRIEND.***

THIS IS ***BAGALIA.*** MORE SPECIFICALLY, HELL TOWN. IT'S...HELL ***ADJACENT.*** PURPOSELY CREATED BY THE SON OF MEPHISTO TO BE A PLACE WHERE SOME WRONGS MIGHT BE RIGHTED.

SON OF MEPHISTO. *QUE DIEU NOUS AIDE.*

I KNOW WE'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT MANNERS AS MUCH, BUT MAYBE DON'T TALK ABOUT THE BIG GUY AROUND HERE--

ACTUALLY, I DON'T MIND TALK OF HOLY THINGS SO MUCH.

INTRUDERS, HOWEVER...

DAIMON HELLSTROM. WE'RE FROM THE TVA. WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, NOT EVERY CREATURE DOWN HERE IS DYING TO MESS WITH YOUR WORLDS.

BUT EVERY TIME A FESTERING BOIL POPS UP THERE, YOU COME DOWN TO SEE WHAT HELL HAD TO DO WITH IT.

GROSS.

FOLLOWING HIM BLINDLY SEEMS FOOLISH, NO?

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE. WE'RE ON HIS TURF. WE NEED ANSWERS.

TWENTY MORE ATTACKS IN LESS THAN SIXTY MINUTES.

OUR CONTACT'S REPORTING THAT THE MADNESS IS GETTING WORSE-- THE VICTIMS HAVE TO BE SEDATED. WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS CAUSING THIS, MOBIUS.

I *KNOW*, PEG. WE HAVE A TEAM ON THE GROUND GATHERING SAMPLES. IS EVERYTHING READY WITH DOC CLOCK, MISS MINUTES?

DOC CLOCK AND SIR SECONDS ARE SETTING UP A LAB IN THE INFIRMARY. JUST LIKE I TOLD THEM TO. YOU'RE WELCOME.

THIS DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A VIRUS, MOBIUS.

O.B. IS RIGHT. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING WE'VE SEEN. THE ABILITY TO ATTACK THAT MANY TIMELINES AT ONCE IS NEW.

DIDN'T ONE OF YOUR GENERALS FIND A WAY TO PRUNE SEVERAL TIMELINES AT ONCE?

DOX HAD PRUNING CHARGERS. SHE ATTACKED DOZENS AT ONCE, BUT THIS LEVEL AND SPEED ARE ***UNPRECEDENTED.***

ARE WE SURE THAT GUY WITH THE UNSTABLE, SUBPAR TIME RIPPER IS STILL IN HOLDING, B-15?

PARADOX IS UNDER LOCK AND KEY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT *HIM.*

AND YOU DON'T NEED TO KEEP CALLING IT "*SUBPAR,*" O.B. WE UNDERSTAND YOU COULD HAVE DONE IT BETTER.

SO WE'RE BACK TO A VIRUS, A PIECE OF TECH, OR...COULD A MUTANT DO THIS?

IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AN OMEGA-LEVEL--

AN OMEGA-LEVEL MUTANT WOULD LEAVE OTHER TRACES... NO CHARLES XAVIER FROM ANY TIMELINE HAS FOUND ANY.

MOBIUS? YOU OKAY?

YES. YES. OF COURSE.

DID I KNOW WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING THAT I'D BE TRAIPSING THROUGH HELL? YES. THEY TOLD ME LAST NIGHT.

DID I KNOW WHEN I WOKE UP *YESTERDAY* MORNING THAT I'D BE TRAIPSING THROUGH HELL? NO.

BUT THIS PLACE IS ACTUALLY...NOT THAT BAD. THE CARNIVAL WAS WORSE. I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT. I'M GOING TO TRY TO TALK TO THE DEMON MAN.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

SOMEPLACE WHERE YOU WON'T BE KILLED ON SIGHT.

...OR TO A SECOND LOCATION. THAT'S NEVER GOOD.

BELIEVE ME. IF I WAS GOING TO KILL YOU, I'D DO IT PUBLICLY.

SNIKT

PLEASE. I SAID *IF*. RELAX. I HAVE NO NEED TO KILL YOU.

WHAT I *DO* HAVE IS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC.

HELLSTROM MANOR.

...A SECOND LOCATION.

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE VAMPIRES*--

????

THEY'RE CALLING IT ***THE MADNESS***. IT'S CAUSING VIVID...WE THOUGHT THEY WERE HALLUCINATIONS. BUT PEOPLE ARE SEEING THE TVA. PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN THERE.

*MARVEL'S VAMPIRES RAN AMOK IN LAST SUMMER'S **BLOOD HUNT** EVENT. --JDW

AND YOU THINK IT'S COMING FROM HELL?

IF THE FLAMING, SULFUR-SOAKED SHOE FITS.

WREAKING HAVOC ON HUMANS FOR FUN IS MORE OF MY FATHER'S WHEELHOUSE. I'M SURE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH HIS WORK. PEOPLE CALL HIM THE DEVIL.

YOUR NINE O'CLOCK, WEBS. SOMETHING SEEM OFF TO YOU?

OUI.

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S BEEN FOLLOWING US SINCE WE GOT HERE.

AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO KEEP GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES AND GETTING YOU MORE WORKED UP, MY DEAR...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS MADNESS.

BUT MY LIBRARY HAS ENOUGH BOOKS TO RIVAL EVEN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM...AND YOU'RE FREE TO SEARCH THERE, IF YOU'D LIKE.

WHY WOULD WE ***EVER*** LET YOU TAKE US TO A ***THIRD*** LOCATION?

BECAUSE HE'S THE ONLY LEAD WE HAVE RIGHT NOW.

STILL FOLLOWING. JUST LEFT MY PERIPHERY. YOU?

GOT IT.

IT'S A COMMON MISCONCEPTION THAT EVERYTHING THAT BURNED WHEN ALEXANDRIA WAS SET ABLAZE IN 48 B.C.E. WAS LOST FOREVER...

...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN, IF *MY* FLAMES HADN'T GOT THERE FIRST AND BROUGHT THEM HERE.

NOW ALL OF THOSE SCROLLS AND TOMES ARE IN MY COLLECTION, SAFE AND SOUND. ANYONE CAN COME CHECK THEM OUT. BUT FOR SOME REASON, I DON'T GET MANY VISITORS.

MY MONEY IS ON A PROBLEM WITH LOCALE OR PERSONNEL, BRO, BECAUSE THIS PLACE IS CRAZY COOL.

SPEAK ALOUD WHATEVER SUBJECT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, AND THE GROUND WILL ILLUMINATE THE WAY.

THE MADNESS. PSYCHOLOGICAL TERROR. HALLUCINATIONS.

...NONFICTION, PLEASE.

WOOOOSSH

OMEGA-LEVEL MUTANTS.

WOOOSH

WHAT'S THE PLAN?
I DIDN'T WANT TO ASSUME YOU'D WANT TO GO WITH MY PLAN.
LOVE THE FEMINISM, BUT WE'RE SHORT ON TIME.
THEY'RE KEEPING US IN THEIR SIGHT.
...WHICH MEANS THEY'RE NOT WATCHING THEIR OWN BACK.
DOES THIS LITTLE CONTRAPTION WORK IN HELL?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
THRUMMM
THEY'LL THINK WE JUST WENT TO CHECK ON BOOKS.
JIMMY IS RIGHT. HELLSTROM IS OUR ONLY LEAD. THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO TRUST HIM.
THE GAME IS UP, *MON AMI.*
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF BOLD MOVES IN MY LIFE, BUT WATCHING YOU LOT WALTZ INTO THE HELLSTROM MANOR, UNARMED, WAS ONE OF THE BOLDEST.

WE WEREN'T UNARMED.

OH, YEAH? WHAT KIND OF POWERS YOU GOT?

...SPIDERWEBS.

IT *SOUNDS* SILLY, BUT THEY'RE, LIKE...REALLY STRONG. AND HIM? HE HAS CARDS. *PLAYING* CARDS.

GLOWING PLAYING CARDS.

AND YOU ARE?

SYLVIE.

YOU'RE A LOKI. MOBIUS TALKS ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME.

ONLY GOOD THINGS, I'M SURE.

WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?

I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE TVA. YOU'RE LUCKY, BY THE WAY. HELLSTROM COULD HAVE WARDED AGAINST TECH. GLAD TO SEE HE DIDN'T. MEANS WE CAN TRUST HIM... FOR NOW.

YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN YOURSELF KILLED, BAITING US LIKE THAT.

YOU? KILL ME? KEEP THAT OPTIMISM. WE'RE GONNA NEED IT.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO THIS MADNESS...

...AND IT'S WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT.

SO, WHAT TURNED THE PRINCE OF HELL INTO SUCH A BIBLIOPHILE?

WELL. I WASN'T ALWAYS THE PRINCE OF HELL. BORN HUMAN. I WAS ACTUALLY STUDYING TO BE A PRIEST WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO MY DAD WAS. SO I...PAUSED.

THAT'LL DO IT.

BUT I'VE ALWAYS LOVED TO READ. BOOKS TOLD ME THE TRUTH WHEN I WAS STUDYING, AND THEY DIDN'T CARE WHO I WAS AFTER. THE TRUTH IS THE TRUTH, I GUESS. NO MATTER WHO READS IT.

YOU SOUND TOO HOPEFUL TO BE RUNNING A HISTORIC BED-AND-BREAKFAST IN HELL.

AND YOU SOUND TOO PESSIMISTIC TO BE WORKING WITH *"THE NEW AND IMPROVED TVA."*

THRUMMMMMMM

WHAT THE HELL? WHERE WERE YOU GUYS?

WHY IS THERE ANOTHER ANGRY WOMAN WITH YOU?

CAREFUL THERE, *DIABLE.*

THIS IS SYLVIE!

SYLVIE? ***THE*** SYLVIE?

EVERYONE IS WAY TOO CLOSE TO ME.

WAIT...WHERE'S JIMMY?

THERE YOU ARE! FIND ANYTHING ABOUT THE MADNESS?

...NOT EXACTLY--BUT I FOUND THIS.

HEY, SYLVIE.

AN EXHAUSTIVE GUIDE TO CELESTIAL BUREAUCRACIES.

AND LOOK. THERE'S A LIST OF EVERY--

THAT'S NOT ALL THIS BOOK DOES.

WHOOOSH

THAT'S THE TVA.

I KNEW THERE WERE OTHER WINGS. BUT THESE...THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE...

DIRECTLY UNDER R&D. I THOUGHT R&D WAS THE BOTTOM LEVEL.

MON DIEU.

THIS BOOK ISN'T SUPPOSED TO EXIST. IT'S ONE I SAVED FROM BACK IN THE DAYS OF ***HE WHO REMAINS***. THERE WERE A LOT OF SECRETS BACK THEN. I GUESS THERE STILL ARE.

IS THAT... LOKI?

BEFORE.

·REC

IF I DO THIS ONCE, I DON'T HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN?

THAT'S RIGHT... JUST ONE NICE THING, MOBIUS. AND THEN I'LL STOP PERSTERIN' YA

"A WHILE BACK, I LEFT THE TVA. I NEEDED TO SEE WHAT WE WERE PROTECTING, SO I VISITED THE TIMELINES. AND I SAW. AND...IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

LOKI?

"BUT THIS PLACE IS BEAUTIFUL TOO. AND I WANT TO FIGHT FOR IT. BECAUSE HE DID. AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE IS, OR WHAT HE'S DOING, BUT I JUST KNOW IT'S IMPORTANT THAT I'M HERE.

SHNK

"THAT I KEEP FIGHTING FOR THIS PLACE."

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE TVA

HEY THERE! I'M ***DOC CLOCK***, YOUR FRIENDLY AUTONOMOUS MEDICAL A.I.! AND I KNOW THAT AFTER A LONG DAY AT WORK, MANY ORGANIC BEINGS LIKE TO INCORPORATE A NICE PIECE OF PIE INTO THEIR BODY.

USUALLY, BUT NOT ALWAYS, THROUGH THEIR MOUTHS!

THAT'S WHY I'VE WORKED ***EXTRA HARD*** TO ENSURE THE PIE WE SERVE HERE IN OUR TVA ***AUTOMAT*** IS ***NUTRITIONALLY COMPLETE.***

YES, SIR, I'VE PERSONALLY SCOURED ***ENTIRE TIMELINES*** LOOKING FOR THE ABSOLUTE ***BEST*** PIE RECIPE IN THE ***MULTIVERSE!***

AND WOULDN'T YA KNOW IT, OL' DOC ***FOUND*** IT!

SO IF YOU ***DON'T*** LIKE THE PIE, DARLIN'S, THEN I'M AFRAID YOU'RE JUST ***OBJECTIVELY*** WRONG!

AIN'T THAT RIGHT, ***SIR SECONDS?*** YOU LOVE THE PIE ***TOO***, DON'T YOU?

OIM NOT THE KINDA CLOCK THAT ***EATS***, LOVE.

BUT IF YOU WERE?

OIM NOT THE KINDA CLOCK THAT ***ENDORSES*** NEITHER.

AND THE BEST PART IS, IF YOU FEEL POORLY AFTER EATING THIS PIE, THAT MEANS SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOU! WE CALL THAT A ***"DIAGNOSIS"!***

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY--JUST LET ME KNOW, AND I'LL FIX YOU RIGHT UP...

...***LICK***ETY-SPLIT!!!

YUM!

AS DETERMINED BY THE TVA, MANY MEDICAL OPERATIONS ARE OBLIGATORY AND DO NOT NEED YOUR CONSENT. PLEASE DO NOT RESIST.

RYAN NORTH - WRITER ***ENID BALÁM*** - ARTIST ***RACHELLE ROSENBERG*** - COLOR ARTIST ***VC's JOE SABINO*** - LETTERER

THEN.

RIGHT THERE? THAT'S THE CAMERA WE'RE LOOKING AT?

RIGHT THERE, SUGAR. THE CAMERA *LOVES* YOU.

I LOVE IT RIGHT BACK.

YOU KNOW, EVERYONE ELSE IS BEIN' A REAL SOURPUSS ABOUT DOING THESE BEFORE THE MISSION. YOU'RE AS HAPPY AS A PIG IN MUD.

WELL, MISS MINUTES. I THINK THE TVA IS DOING GOOD WORK. I'M HAPPY TO BE A PART OF IT.

NOW, JIMMY, YOU COULD BE DOIN' ANYTHING YOU WANT. WHAT MADE YOU PICK THE TVA?

JIMMY! THERE YOU ARE. SUIT UP. WE'RE LEAVING IN FIVE MINUTES, AND NO ONE ELSE THINKS WE SHOULD STOP FOR SOUR STRAWS FIRST. I NEED BACKUP.

WE'LL FINISH WHEN WE GET BACK, I PROMISE. THANK YOU, MISS MINUTES.

EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S BAD LUCK TO GO TO HELL WITHOUT CANDY. WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

NOW.

HIS VITALS LOOK GOOD, GUYS.

BUT WHATEVER THAT BLADE WAS MADE OF...IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T DEALT WITH. SOMETHING TOTALLY WEIRD.

THE TEAM IS DOING A PERIMETER SWEEP, DOC CLOCK. WE'VE ALREADY LOCKED DOWN THE WHOLE TVA.

NOT THE *WHOLE* TVA, B-15.

WELL, AS MUCH OF THE TVA AS WE CAN, GWEN. I KNEW REFORMING THIS PLACE WOULD BE TRICKY, BUT IT SEEMS THERE ARE STILL SECRETS TO UNEARTH.

WE NEED MOBIUS. AND MAYBE ANOTHER TRIP TO HELLSTROM'S LIBRARY TO DO SOME DIGGING WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER.

WE CAN ASK HIM IF HE WAKES UP.

WHEN, SYLVIE.

THIS IS WHERE THEY FOUND HIM?

RIGHT THERE, PEG.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT WOULD BE WORSE IF THERE WAS STILL BLOOD HERE, BUT THE FACT THAT IT GOT CLEANED UP SO FAST IS UNNERVING...

NON, MA BELLE. BLOOD IS ALWAYS WORSE.

THERE ARE CAMERAS HERE, RIGHT, INGRID?

YES, BUT THOSE ARE OBVIOUSLY THE ONES OUR TEAM LOOKED AT FIRST. THERE WAS NOTHING.

SNIK!

OH, THEY ARE *NOT* GOING TO LIKE THAT. WE JUST PAINTED...

HAVE THEM SEND ME A BILL.

THE WIRE WAS CUT. WHOEVER IT WAS...IT SEEMS THIS WAS THEIR ESCAPE ROUTE.

AND THEY MADE SURE THEY HAD COVERAGE. OR...A LACK THEREOF.

SO WE JUST FOLLOW THIS HALLWAY...

SIR SECONDS? WE NEED YOU TO PULL SOME CCTV FOOTAGE.

I THOUGHT WE TALKED ABOUT THIS. I AIN'T MISS MINUTES OR DOC CLOCK. I AIN'T SOME QUIRKY MASCOT.

I 'ANDLE SECURITY, AND WIF THE SIZE O' THIS PLACE, THAT TAKES EVERY MINUTE I 'AVE. NOW SOMEONE GOT IN ON MY WATCH--

POP!

...GOOD ONE.

--I'VE GOT TWO-HUNDRED-THOUSAND YOTTABYTES OF DATA TO GO FRU, SO I DON'T GOT TIME TO BE ANSWERIN' EVERY BECK AND CALL. I SHOULDN'T BE ANSWERIN' ANYTHING!

WE CAN NARROW THAT DOWN. WE HAVE A LEAD.

WELL, NOW I KNOW THIS WAS A WASTE OF TIME. THERE'S NUFIN' DOWN THAT WAY. SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--

PEOPLE DON'T JUST ***DISAPPEAR***. SOMEONE WENT DOWN THERE.

WELL, 'OEVER IT WAS WOUND UP RIGHT WHERE THIS STARTED. BACK IN R&D. OR R&A, AS YOU LOT CALL IT NOW, ALL FANCY-LIKE.

THAT MAKES NO SENSE. WHO WOULD BE HEADED TO R&A BESIDES...ONE OF US?

POP!

JAMES HUDSON?

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF MOBIUS.

WHAT?!
THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE...
IS DESIGNED TO PUT YOU AT EASE
HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE, *MES AMIS.*
IT'S NOT A MISTAKE.
A PRETTY BIG ONE.

DOC CLOCK STILL DOESN'T KNOW *WHAT* STABBED MOBIUS, BUT SHE *WAS* ABLE TO GET A RUNDOWN OF THE CELLULAR STRUCTURE.

WHICH PROVES NOTHING. WE ALL HAVE WEAPONS, *LA PATRONNE.*

WE EXECUTED A SEARCH WARRANT OF ALL BARRACKS. WE FOUND THIS IN YOUR BUNK, JIMMY.

THE KNIFE IS MISSING. AND WHEN O.B. COMPARED THE SHEATH TO WHATEVER MADE THE WOUND ON MOBIUS...IT WAS A MATCH.

I DIDN'T HURT MOBIUS. I WOULD NEVER. HE'S--

I KNOW, JIMMY. WE ALL KNOW. BUT WE HAVE TO PUT YOU IN HOLDING UNTIL...

UNTIL WHAT?

UNTIL THE TRIAL.

RESEARCH & ADVANCEMENTS

HE HAS AN ALIBI. WE WERE ALL TOGETHER IN HELLSTROM'S LIBRARY.

THE TEMPADS WORKED. WE KNOW THAT.

YOU THINK HE LEFT, STABBED MOBIUS AND THEN CAME BACK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED?

CAN'T YOU ENCHANT MOBIUS? SEE WHAT HE SAW?

IT IS POSSIBLE. AND UNTIL WE HAVE FACTS, I'M NOT RULING ANYTHING OUT.

UNTIL HE'S STABLE, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE NEAR HIS MIND. BAD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU MEDDLE WITH THE BRAIN WHEN IT'S IN A STATE LIKE THAT.

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE JIMMY IN A CELL ALL ALONE FOR SOMETHING HE DIDN'T DO.

NO, *MON AMI*. BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET HIM OUT. WE HAVE TO FIND THE TRUTH.

WE KNOW THAT THE ATTACKER WENT BACK THE WAY THEY CAME. TO R&A. BUT YOU SAW NO ONE DOWN HERE, O.B.?

NEGATIVE, GAMBIT. AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY IN AND ONE WAY OUT...THAT ***I*** KNOW OF.

UNLESS THEY WENT DOWN ***HERE.*** WE NEED TO GET DOWN THERE. FIND THEM.

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GET DOWN THERE.

I MIGHT. MY DREAMS GAVE PRETTY CLEAR DIRECTIONS.

NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

IT'S DOC CLOCK. THEY'RE READY FOR ME IN THE MED BAY. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID.

BEEP!

AND BY THAT, I MEAN NO ONE MOVE, AND NO ONE *SAY* ANYTHING ELSE.

HE'S GOING TO PULL THROUGH?

IT SEEMS SO. BUT HE IS STILL VERY WEAK. HE'LL BE FINE IF YOU WANT TO ENCHANT, BUT...

...WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU SLEPT, MY FRIEND?

DON'T MAKE ME HIT YOU IN THE SNOOZE BUTTON.

IF YOU THINK THAT IT'LL PUSH HIM TOO HARD TOO SOON, WE CAN WAIT...

NO. HE WOULDN'T WANT JIMMY ACCUSED OF SOMETHING HE DIDN'T DO.

YOU DON'T EITHER.

YOU DON'T THINK HE DID IT.

OF COURSE NOT. BUT THE ONLY WAY THE TVA CAN SAY IT'S *"NEW AND IMPROVED"* IS IF WE TREAT EVERYONE WITH FAIRNESS. AND WE FOUND EVIDENCE IN HIS BUNK.

YES. I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT. AND ABOUT THE *"NEW AND IMPROVED TVA,"* BUT...THAT'S NOTHING NEW, I GUESS.

THEN LET'S GET SOME ANSWERS. ON ALL FRONTS.

...LOKI?

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE. WE TRACED THE WEAPON THAT STABBED MOBIUS.

POP!

BEFORE WE WENT TO HELL, I HAD A DREAM. AND I SAW THE DEPARTMENT BELOW R&A. SOMETHING WAS LEADING ME THERE.

THE NEXT DAY, I WALKED THE HALLS AND REALIZED I RECOGNIZED THEM. AND THE COUPLE TIMES I'VE HAD THE DREAMS, THEY GET MORE AND MORE DETAILED.

I'M BEING LED THERE.

LED...BY WHO?

BY A HALLUCINATION.

WE HAVE NEWS.

I JUST ENCHANTED MOBIUS. HE SAW THE SAME THING. BEFORE HE WAS STABBED.

MISS MINUTES AND DOC CLOCK FIGURED OUT WHAT THE STRANGE RESIDUE IN MOBIUS' WOUND WAS. REMNANTS OF A ***REALITY SHARD.***

SOMEONE HAS HAD A REALITY SHARD IN THE TVA. THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SEEING, AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT HAS BEEN CAUSING THE MADNESS ON THE TIMELINES.

WE'VE BEEN RUNNING A TRACE ON ALL REALITY SHARDS TO CONFIRM.

DID YOU FIND THE REALITY SHARD HERE?

NOT YET. WE'RE LOOKING FOR IT. THAT'S ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE SOLVED.

WE SHOULD CHECK IT OUT ANYWAY. FIND OUT WHAT'S BREWING DOWN THERE.

NO. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ***NOT*** GOING TO DO. WHATEVER IS MESSING WITH US? IT ***WANTS*** US TO GO DOWN THERE.

WHAT IF WHATEVER "IT" IS...*ISN'T* MESSING WITH US? WHAT IF IT'S TRYING TO HELP?

WHAT IF IT'S LOKI?

IT'S NOT.

OUR LOKI'S GONE, AND HE'S NOT COMING BACK.

BUT--

WE WILL RUN A TRACE FOR ANY AND ALL REALITY SHARD ACTIVITY ON THE TIMELINE. WE'LL CHASE IT DOWN. FIND OUT WHO IS BEHIND IT. CLEAR JIMMY. FOR NOW...STAY ON THIS LEVEL.

THAT'S AN ORDER, GHOST-SPIDER.

I HATED A LOT ABOUT SITTING IN THIS CELL. BUT THE STUFF THEY CALLED FOOD... *POUBELLES.*

YOUR CARDS. THEY'RE UNUSUAL.

WELL, THEY EXPLODE.

THEY'RE FOR HER, RIGHT? ROGUE? THAT'S WHO WE SAW ON THE BOARDWALK TOO.

I DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT HER, *MON AMI.* I CAME HERE BECAUSE I DON'T THINK BEING ALONE IN THIS PLACE IS GOOD FOR A MAN. SO WE CAN TALK BAKING, WE CAN TALK KILLING, WE CAN TALK POLITICS. BUT HER...

FAIR ENOUGH.

YOU KNOW, IF YOU'D BEEN BORN WITH YOUR FATHER'S CLAWS... THESE PRISON BARS WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

SNIKT!

I ASSUME THERE'S A STORY THERE.

THERE IS. BUT WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT BAKING.

BIEN.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY. "THIS IS A BAD IDEA, GWEN. B-15 TOLD YOU NOT TO.

"REALITY SHARDS ARE DANGEROUS, GWEN. YOU KNOW THIS. THEY'RE JUST LITTLE BITS OF THE REALITY STONE, BUT THEY CAN STILL WREAK HAVOC. THEY COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DREAMS, ET CETERA ET CETERA..."

BUT HERE'S THE THING.

UP

DOWN

B

IF THIS IS A HALLUCINATION...

...THEN WHY DID THE CODE I SAW IN MY DREAM WORK?

I THINK SYLVIE AND B-15 ARE WRONG. I THINK WE'RE BEING LED HERE FOR A REASON...

Department of Deferment

...AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE TVA

HOWDY, DARLIN'! I'M ***MISS MINUTES***, AND IF YOU'RE READING THIS, YOU'RE IN ONE OF THE TVA'S BREAK ROOMS, STARIN' AT THIS ***CORPORATE INFORMATION POSTER!***

AND AS YOU STARE, YOU'RE STARTING TO ***REMEMBER***, AIN'T YA?

...CAN YA ***SENSE*** 'EM, JUST ON THE EDGE OF YOUR AWARENESS?

THOSE ***IMPOSSIBLE IMAGES*** OF LIVES YOU'VE NEVER ONCE LIVED?

THE SCENT 'A SOMEONE ***DEARLY BELOVED***, BUT WIT' THEIR FACE ALWAYS JUUUST OUTTA VIEW?

THAT FEELING OF BEIN' SMALL AND RUNNING YOUR HANDS THROUGH THE CARPET OF YOUR CHILDHOOD HOME...

...ONE YA KNOW FOR A ***FACT*** ONLY EVER HAD ***LINOLEUM*** FLOORING?

GOOD NEWS: IF YOU ANSWERED *"YES"* TO ***ANY*** OF THESE QUESTIONS, ***YOU*** GET A TRIP TO HUMAN RESOURCES FOR--

FOR A FUN ***SECRET SURPRISE!***

BUT YOU'D BEST REPORT THERE ***NOW***, LOVE, ON THE ***DOUBLE!***

OBEDIENCE IS A VIRTUE. YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE, RESPIRATION RATE AND EYE DILATION LEVELS WHILE READING THIS POSTER HAVE BEEN MONITORED.

RYAN NORTH - WRITER ***ENID BALÁM*** - ARTIST ***RACHELLE ROSENBERG*** - COLOR ARTIST ***VC's JOE SABINO*** - LETTERER

FOUR

HE'S RIGHT OVER HERE!

I TOLD YOU, *LE PETIT* ***HORLOGE***...I AM NOT DOING THIS.

COME ON, REMY. MORALE IS DOWN. MOBIUS IS GOING TO WAKE UP, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE WHEN. WE NEED SOME POSITIVITY!

WHICH IS WHY I'M MAKING SOME FOOD, ***MON AMI.*** GAMBIT'S GUMBO MAKES ANY SITUATION BETTER. ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE IN A HOLDING CELL.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT JIMMY TOO. AND I KNOW YOU ALL MUST THINK I'M A STICK IN THE MUD FOR PUSHING Y'ALL TO KEEP DOING THIS.

YOU'RE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING GOOD, MADAMOISELLE MINUTES.

MADAMOISELLE. I LIKE THAT.

IS THERE TOO MUCH OYSTER SAUCE IN THIS, *MON CHÈRE?*

I'D TELL YA, DARLIN', BUT I'M NOT CORPOREAL.

SWEET OF YOU TO FORGET THAT THOUGH.

GAMBIT. PEGGY'S HERE.

I WOULD NORMALLY NEVER SAY THIS, BUT...THE GUMBO CAN WAIT. RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

THINGS ARE MOVING PRETTY FAST, SO--A QUICK UPDATE BEFORE WE INEVITABLY DART OFF ON SOME ILL-FATED MISSION...

RESEARC

THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD DOWN THERE. EVEN THE NAME... "*DEPARTMENT OF DEFERMENT*"... IT DOESN'T SOUND GREAT.

I MEAN, THE MOST GENEROUS READING I CAN THINK OF IMPLIES THE EXISTENCE OF INTERDIMENSIONAL STUDENT LOANS. WHICH IS DEPRESSING.

BUT MY TIME EXPLORING IT GOT CUT SHORT...

HHSSSSSSSSS

...SO I PLAYED IT SAFE.

BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP. MY INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING.

ILL-ADVISED, STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AND ONGOING. JUST HOW I LIKE IT.

I'LL TELL THE TEAM WHEN I KNOW MORE. THEY HAVE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH RIGHT NOW AS IT IS...

THIS IS BAD TIMING, I KNOW.

WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN HONESTLY. SYLVIE'S BEEN WAITING FOR MOBIUS TO WAKE UP TO GET ANSWERS. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, SIR SECONDS IS WORKING HARD TO RECOVER THE DELETED FOOTAGE FROM THE HALLWAY.

IS THERE ANOTHER HIT ON THE MADNESS?

RESEARCH A

YES. THERE ARE REPORTS OF LOTS OF THESE STRANGE VISIONS ON DIFFERENT TIMELINES--SOME EVEN REPORT SEEING BLOOD IN A TVA HALLWAY, WHICH LINES UP WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO MOBIUS. I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO THEM ALL... BUT THERE'S ONE PLACE THAT SEEMS TO HAVE THE MOST ACTIVITY, RIGHT NOW. WE NEED BOOTS ON THE GROUND.

THEN YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT, CAPTAIN. IF WE FIND OUT WHAT IS BEHIND THE MADNESS, MAYBE WE CAN FIND ANSWERS ABOUT WHO ATTACKED MOBIUS.

KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THOSE TWO THINGS ARE NOT CONNECTED, REMY.

WE'LL ADMIT THAT DEFEAT WHEN WE RUN INTO IT.

DO WE HAVE A BETTER PLAN THAN WE HAD LAST TIME? OR ARE WE JUST GOING TO TUMBLE IN BLIND AND GET OUR BUTTS KICKED BY OUR UNPROCESSED TRAUMAS AGAIN? I'M GOOD EITHER WAY.

WELL, NOT BLIND, THIS TIME. YOU'LL HAVE A NATIVE WITH YOU.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. EARTH-616.

OKAY. IN ORDER--WE STOP THE BRAIN-EATING NIGHTMARE, EXONERATE OUR FRIEND AND THEN I THINK WE CAN FIND A QUICK MOMENT TO SNEAK IN SOME OF THE STREET FOOD. THOUGHTS, INGRID?

I'M LOVING YOUR OPTIMISM, BUT--

ZANIAC!

LADIES! I'LL BET YOU TWENTY BUCKS I CAN TELL YOU WHERE YOU GOT YOUR SHOES--

YEAH, YEAH, WE KNOW. ON THEIR FEET. GO TRY AND SCAM SOMEONE ELSE, *MON AMI*. WE'RE NOT TOURISTS.

OKAY, SO YOU BOTH NEED TO STOP ACTING LIKE TOURISTS.

THIS IS THE BEST CITY IN THE WORLD, BUT YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN HERE.

OKAY, WHAT'S THE PLAY, THEN? WE JUST WALK AROUND UNTIL SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS AGAIN? SMART.

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG, LAST TIME. I THINK THE MOMENT WE START LOOKING LIKE WE'RE ENJOYING OURSELVES, IT SHOULD ALL FALL APART.

ARE YOU HAVING BAD DREAMS, GIRL?

DON'T PANIC. THAT'S NOT TOO SPECIFIC.

THE ***GREEN ONE***. HE'S LEADING YOU TO THE DEPTHS, IS HE NOT?

MMKAY. SO THAT ONE IS GONNA BE HARDER TO WRITE OFF.

LUCKY GUESS.

NOT LUCKY. WE SEE THINGS. WE'VE ALL SEEN THINGS HERE. GLIMPSES OF THE PLACE WITH BLACK TILE AND TWISTED HALLWAYS. THE PLACE WHERE TIME STOPS.

SO IS THIS LOCAL COLOR, GAMBIT? OR DID WE FIND WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR IN RECORD TIME?

THE VEIL IS THIN IN THIS CITY, *MON AMI.* SO THE ANSWER MIGHT NOT BE SO SIMPLE.

WHERE DID SHE--?!

NOT SO SIMPLE, INDEED.

ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT, WEBS?

I'VE BEEN HAVING DREAMS, OKAY? AND THEY'RE LEADING ME DOWN INTO THE TVA. SYLVIE AND B-15 WANT ME TO DROP IT, BUT I THINK THERE MIGHT BE A REASON I'M BEING LED DOWN THERE.

A GOOD REASON OR A BAD REASON?

...I DON'T KNOW. BUT I WANT AN ANSWER TO ALL OF THIS. THE MADNESS, JIMMY...ALL OF IT.

THE VEIL *IS* THIN HERE.

YOU REALLY THINK DAIMON HELLSTROM'S NUTSO SENTIENT LIBRARY IS ANSWERING OUR QUESTIONS FROM THE FIERY DEPTHS?

MAYBE WE FINALLY CAUGHT A BREAK.

FWIMMM

WE CAN'T JUST LET HER FOLLOW THE HELLISH DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM ALONE, RIGHT?

NO, WE CANNOT.

WELL. TODAY CAN'T GET ANY WEIRDER.

Cross Haven

A BOOK. I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING SCARIER.

HAVE YOU SEEN *ANY* MOVIE? BOOKS ARE STEP ONE TO SCARY.

FINE, THEN WE WON'T TOUCH IT.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. WE HAVE NO LEADS. WE CAN'T GO BACK EMPTY-HANDED.

GUYS? I DON'T THINK WE'RE EMPTY-HANDED.

WHOOOOOOSSSH

OF ALL DAYS TO NOT HAVE THE TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A BOGO SALE...

WE HAVE TO GO. COME ON.

GIVE US THE BOOK, GIRL...

WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT BOOKS, INGRID?

WE CAN'T LET THEM FOLLOW US INTO THE TVA!

SHRRK SHRRK

WHAMM!

DON'T LET THEM GET THE BOOK!

CRACK!

THWIP

ATTACK

WE HAVE TO GET BACK!

THWACK

BEHIND YOU!!!

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

BEEP

INGRID, MOVE!!!

CRASH!

MEANWHILE...

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO SLEEP, SYLVIE? THERE'S A COT IN THE ROOM DOWN THE HALL. I COULD TOTALLY JUST SEND A MESSAGE VIA TEMPAD IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES.

I'M GOOD RIGHT HERE.

IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO BE ALONE... HE WON'T BE. I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE. I WON'T LET MY SCREENSAVER TIMER GO OFF OR ANYTHING--PINKY PROMISE.

SCREENSAVER TIMER?

POP!

IT SAVES ENERGY. BUT I'M STILL HERE! I'D NEVER LEAVE MY PATIENTS UNATTENDED. LIKE...EVER.

POP!

NOT IN A CREEPY WAY, OF COURSE.

I DON'T THINK YOU COULD BE CREEPY IF YOU TRIED, DOC.

I NEED TO GET TO R&D. NOW.

POP!

GOOD TIMING! I HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT THIS SHEATH, AND IT HAS A VERY UNIQUE ENERGY SIGNATURE...

SLAM

...WELL. THIS IS INTRIGUING.

I CERTAINLY HOPE IT'S MORE THAN "*INTRIGUING.*"

I DIDN'T GO OFF AND GET MYSELF KIND OF KILLED FOR A CLUE THAT'S INTRIGUING. I'LL TAKE "*FASCINATING*," MAYBE...

..."*GREAT SCOTT!*" WOULD BE BETTER. BUT, HEY...I'M STILL WAKING UP FROM A COMA. WHAT DO I KNOW?

BEFORE YOU ASK, NO. I DIDN'T SEE WHO STABBED ME. BUT I KNOW IT WASN'T JIMMY.

YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING?

NOTHING THAT MAKES SENSE.

TRY ME.

SO, CAN WE GET JIMMY FREE, *LA PATRONNE?*

WELL. TECHNICALLY, MOBIUS DIDN'T SEE WHO STABBED HIM, SO JIMMY ISN'T TOTALLY OFF THE HOOK YET. BUT MOBIUS IS AWAKE, AND IF HE SAYS IT WASN'T JIMMY...WE CAN PROCESS HIM OUT UNTIL WE GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

AND IN THE MEANTIME...TELL US EVERYTHING, MOBIUS.

AND HE DID. IT WAS TRAUMATIC TO GO THROUGH IT ONCE--WE WON'T MAKE YOU DO IT AGAIN. LET'S JUST JUMP TO THE PART WHERE I SUGGEST THAT MAYBE WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE VISION AND MOBIUS IS NOT SUPER STOKED ABOUT IT...

AND BY NOT STOKED, I MEAN I HAVE *NEVER* SEEN HIS MUSTACHE TWITCH LIKE THAT.

NO, GWEN. WHATEVER I SAW, IT GOT ME *STABBED*.

BY *SOMEONE ELSE*. THE ATTACK CAME FROM BEHIND!

WHATEVER THESE VISIONS ARE--HERE OR ON THE TIMELINE-- THEY AREN'T GOOD, GWEN.

HOW CAN YOU *KNOW* THAT?

BECAUSE I JUST DO.

BUT WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG? WHAT IF IT'S LOKI TRYING TO HELP US? YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING US HOW *GOOD* YOUR LOKI WAS... IS...WHATEVER. WHY IS IT SO HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE'D BE TRYING TO HELP US?

IT ISN'T HIM, GWEN.

HE WOULDN'T HAVE WALKED AWAY. HE WOULDN'T BE *RUNNING* FROM ME, AND HE *ABSO-FRICKIN'-LUTELY* WOULDN'T HAVE *LEFT ME* LYING ON THE GROUND, BLEEDING OUT.

SO WHATEVER YOU'RE SEEING... YOU NEED TO LEAVE IT ALONE. DON'T TRUST IT. DON'T FOLLOW IT.

ENOUGH. MOBIUS, YOU NEED REST.

SOMETIMES, WE DON'T GET THE HAPPY ENDINGS WE DESERVE. LOKI KNEW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE. WE'RE ON OUR OWN--HE'S NOT HERE. SO PUT A PIN IN THIS. ALL OF YOU.

I KNOW WHAT MOBIUS SAID. BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT WE'RE UP AGAINST SOMETHING DARK. SOMETHING BAD.

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AND MAYBE LOKI KNOWS THAT. MAYBE, WHEREVER HE IS...HE KNOWS WE NEED HELP.

4 5 6

AND CALL ME NAIVE, BUT I'M NOT READY TO GIVE UP ON THE IDEA OF A HAPPY ENDING JUST YET.

THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON THE TVA BROUGHT IN NEW BLOOD, ISN'T IT? BECAUSE WE'RE HOPING FOR A BETTER FUTURE. WE'RE HOPING THIS PLACE CAN BE BETTER THAN IT WAS.

OKAY, SO...I'LL ADMIT THAT THAT PEP TALK DIDN'T AGE WELL... THIS PLACE IS LOOKING ***WORSE*** THAN I THOUGHT IT WAS...

BECAUSE THIS IS WANDA MAXIMOFF. ***THE SCARLET WITCH.*** I'VE HEARD ABOUT HER ON MY TIMELINE...AND HER NAME STRETCHES FURTHER THAN THAT. BUT THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE ONE WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD. SQUISHED BY A MOUNTAIN AFTER A SHOWDOWN WITH DOCTOR STRANGE.

EXCEPT SHE'S NOT DEAD. SHE'S FRIDGED. *LITERALLY*. NO MATTER WHO SHE IS, SHE DOESN'T DESERVE THIS. WHY WOULD THE TVA KEEP HER DOWN HERE?

AND WHO ELSE DID THEY DO THIS TO?

I NEED TO SEE WHAT THESE OTHER PODS ARE HIDING. *WHO* THEY ARE HIDING.

BEEP!

HHHSSSSSSSS

I KNEW IT WOULD BE YOU, GWEN.

MAYBE I'VE BEEN LED DOWN HERE TO FIX THIS. BECAUSE WE ARE RIGHTING WRONGS HERE. THAT'S WHAT LOKI DID, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL TRYING TO DO. SO...LET'S RIGHT IT.

I KNEW IT WOULD BE YOU WHO SET HER FREE FOR ME.

NIGHTMARE?!

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE TVA

WELL, *HI* THERE, DARLIN'! LOOK AT *YOU!*

YES, *YOU*-- THE PERSON READING THIS!

YOU'RE SOMEPLACE YOU SHOULDN'T BE, AIN'T YA?

OI, THAT THEY ARE, MISS MINUTES. SEEMS THE POOR UNFORTUNATE READIN' THIS FOUND A DOOR IN THE TVA THEY NEVER *NOTICED* BEFORE...

...AN' THEY *OPENED* IT...

...AN' NOW THEY'RE LOST IN A *MAZE* 'A TWISTY LITTLE HALLWAYS, ALL ALIKE.

THEN THEY SAW THIS HERE *POSTER*, WAAAAY DOWN AT THE END OF A *PARTICULARLY* LONG HALLWAY.

AND NOW THEY'RE HERE, *READIN'* IT, HOPIN' FOR SOME *HOPE*, A *MAP* OR A *CLUE* OR SOMETHIN', AND THEY'RE WONDERING--

OOOH, SIR SECONDS, I KNOW THIS ONE! THEY'RE WONDERING IF THEY MADE A *MISTAKE*.

AND THAT'S THE BAD NEWS, LOVE: *THEY DID.* BUT DON'T WORRY--THAT'S WHAT THIS POSTER'S FOR!

IT SURE IS! THIS POSTER'S *MATHEMATICALLY CALCULATED* TO HOLD *ANYONE'S* FOCUS JUST LONG ENOUGH TO--

WELL... YOU'LL SEE!

A MULTIVERSE BY DEFINITION INCLUDES ALL POSSIBLE HORRORS. THE TVA ACTIVELY WORKS TO CONTAIN THESE HORRORS, BUT NOBODY'S PERFECT.

RYAN NORTH - WRITER *ENID BALAM* - ARTIST *RACHELLE ROSENBERG* - COLOR ARTIST VC's *JOE SABINO* - LETTERER

FIVE

IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, MISS MINUTES.

I AM TRYIN' TO CAPTURE THE BEATIN' HEART OF THE TVA, INGRID. IT'S MY MASTERPIECE. MY LOVE LETTER. MY ***MAGNUM OPUS***. AND THE MUSE KNOWS NO TIME CONSTRAINTS.

YOU MUST BE GETTING DESPERATE.

THIS PLACE IS CRIMINALLY DEVOID OF PEOPLE WITH ON-SCREEN CHARISMA. SO YES. DO ME A FAVOR, WILL YA? TELL ME WHY YOU CAME TO THE TVA.

AND YOU'LL LEAVE ME ALONE FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT?

SCOUT'S HONOR.

FINE. THEN I'M READY FOR MY CLOSE-UP.

AND WE'RE ROLLING. SO... INGRID--STAR INTERN, WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO COME TO THE TVA?

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE TO WORK WITH PEOPLE LIKE THIS. PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE--

AND WHERE ***DID*** YOU GET YOUR START? ANALYSTS' WING? HUNTERS' RANKS? OR DID YOU COME IN FROM AN OUTSIDE TIMELINE? I JUST REALIZED I HAVE NEVER ASKED YOU THAT.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM ***AT ALL***, ACTUALLY.

WHAT IN THE SWEET HOLLERIN' TARNATION WAS *THAT?*

SOMETHING BAD. SOMETHING ***VERY*** BAD.

SO...THIS IS VERY BAD.

I TYPICALLY DON'T LIKE TO RANK MY MISTAKES--IT'S KIND OF A DOWNER--BUT THIS IS *TOP THREE*, FOR SURE.

HONESTLY, GWEN, I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR THIS. I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE SUCH A PIECE OF CAKE TO BREAK INTO THE BEST-KEPT SECRET OF THE TVA.

YOU JUST SKIPPED RIGHT ON DOWN HERE. I LOVE THE UPDATED VIBE OF THIS PLACE. CYNICISM HAS THE DOORS LOCKED, BUT THIS NEW CLASS...I'VE HAD COBWEBS PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT. YOUR MIND WAS ALMOST TOO EASY TO BREAK INTO.

NIGHTMARE.

YOUR WORST, AT YOUR SERVICE. WE HAVE THINGS TO DISCUSS, YOU AND I, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT--OUR NEW FRIEND IS AWAKE.

I SHOULD RUN, RIGHT? GET HELP. OR I COULD TRY TO FIND A WAY TO PUT WANDA BACK. THERE'S GOT TO BE AN "*EDIT/UNDO*" BUTTON ON THE POD...

SCARLET WITCH--I THOUGHT I'D MISSED MY CHANCE AFTER I HEARD ABOUT MOUNT WUNDAGORE. BUT THEN I REMEMBERED THAT THE TVA IS ALMOST AS CUNNING AS I AM, AND THEY FOUND A TIMELINE WHERE THE STORY WENT A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY. THE MOUNTAIN WENT DOWN, BUT YOU SURVIVED...AND THEY PUT YOU ON ICE.

BUT WHATEVER I'M GOING TO DO...I NEED TO DO IT *FAST*.

THEY LOCKED YOU AWAY WHERE THEY HAVE LOCKED MANY A POWERFUL CREATURE OVER THE EONS.

BUT NOW I HAVE FREED YOU. TOGETHER, WE CAN RAIN HELL UPON THE TIMELINES--

STOP TALKING.

WHBOOOM

YOU WOKE ME UP, NOT HIM. I DON'T LIKE LIARS.

WELL THEN, IN THE INTEREST OF NOT LYING: I DIDN'T MEAN TO. HE TRICKED ME INTO IT.

I KNOW. I SAW THE WHOLE THING.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONFINED BY MY PHYSICAL FORM. THE TVA SHOULD KNOW THAT. MY POWERS HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN THIS BOX, BUT MY CONSCIOUSNESS HAS NOT. I WAS WEAKENED...UNABLE TO MEDDLE. BUT I WASN'T ASLEEP.

I'M SORRY--I DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS DOWN HERE. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ANY OF THIS WAS HERE...NONE OF MY FRIENDS DID EITHER. THIS PLACE HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR, BUT...IT IS TRYING.

THAT'S WHY I LET YOU OUT. NO MATTER WHO YOU WERE BEFORE, YOU CAN CHOOSE A DIFFERENT PATH. THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE ALL DONE...

ARE YOU WITH THE TVA?

I'M... *FREELANCE.*

YOU SOUND LIKE THEM. AND THE PEOPLE WHO WERE TRYING TO FIX ME ***BEFORE*** THEM. IT IS ALL THE SAME.

YOU UNGRATEFUL WITCH! ALL OF THIS TO FREE YOU...

CRACK!

...OW.

OKAY. TOP *TWO* MISTAKES, MAYBE.

SHHHKK

INGRID! I DID SOMETHING STUPID.

I CAN SEE THAT. WE'VE GOT TO MOVE...

BONK!

SHHHKK

I'M SORRY--

THERE WILL BE TIME FOR APOLOGIES LATER, GWEN. BUT RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.

IT WASN'T LOKI. IT WAS NIGHTMARE. YOU WERE RIGHT, MOBIUS. I WAS STUPID.

RRRRMMMMMMMMMMRRRRRRRRRRMMMMBBB.

IF I HAD A NICKEL FOR EVERY TIME I LET A BLOODTHIRSTY GOD INTO THE TVA HOPING FOR THE BEST, I'D HAVE A NICKEL. WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT.

IT'S NOT JUST NIGHTMARE. THEY HAVE PEOPLE DOWN THERE, GUYS. ON ICE... PEOPLE THE WHOLE WORLD THINKS ARE DEAD, JUST KEPT LIKE SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS...

BLOODY HELL. THIS PLACE...

UM, GUYS--

THIS *PLACE* IS GOING TO TAKE A LONG TIME TO FIX, SYLVIE. WE KNEW THAT. ROME WASN'T BROUGHT UP TO CODE IN A DAY--

GUYS! O.B. FOUND SOMETHING...

BBBRRRRRMMMMMMMMBLLLLRRRRRRRRRR

NIGHTMARE'S ENERGY SIGNATURE IS INFECTING THE TVA.

I THOUGHT WE WERE DEALING WITH THE REALITY SHARD...

THAT WAS MY BEST GUESS, MOBIUS... I'VE NEVER SEEN POWER FROM THE DREAM DIMENSION UP CLOSE, BUT...IF IT GETS TOO MUCH STRONGER, HE'LL CONTROL THIS PLACE.

SIR SECONDS?

WHA'EVA IT IS, CHUM, IS GONNA 'AFTA WAIT A SPELL--THE SYSTEM IS...

POP!

...DOIN' SOMEFINK ODD. ALL SYSTEMS ARE UNDER ATTACK FROM AN OUTSIDER...I AM USING ALL MY BANDWIDTH TO KEEP THE SECURITY MEASURES UP. I'LL CHECK IN SOON AS --

BBRRRRRRMMMMMRRRMMMMMMMMMMBBBRRRRMMMMMDDLLRRRRRRRR

MON DIEU... NIGHTMARE IS THE ONE WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.

POP!

AND...WAIT. IT'S NOT JUST HIM, GAMBIT... THERE'S ANOTHER ENERGY SIGNATURE--CHAOS MAGIC.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU.

I WOKE UP WANDA MAXIMOFF.

ARE YOU TELLING ME A SCARLET WITCH IS LOOSE IN THE TVA RIGHT NOW?

SHE'S IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFERMENT WITH NIGHTMARE. WE LOCKED THE DOOR...

THAT WON'T HOLD THEM FOR LONG.

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?

RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

SHUR

THAT ANSWERS THAT QUESTION, I THINK.

YOU'RE BOTH IN VIOLATION OF THE NEW TVA BYLAWS. POWER DOWN NOW, AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS.

WE CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT...

YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO LET ME THAW FULLY BEFORE PULLING OUT THE PERFORMATIVE DIPLOMACY, I SEE. WELL, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN TALKING. I JUST WANT TO LEAVE.

I AM SORRY THAT YOU READ MY WANT AS A REQUEST. LET ME TRY AGAIN...*I AM LEAVING.*

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY. I COULD SEE YOUR DREAMS WHILE YOU FLOATED IN THE IN-BETWEEN...DREAMS OF ***VENGEANCE***. THAT'S WHY I CAME TO SET YOU FREE.

YOU CAME TO USE ME. YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN ALL THE OTHERS BEFORE YOU WHO HAVE DONE THE SAME THING.

WHERE WILL YOU GO? YOU'VE LEFT TERROR BEHIND YOU LIKE A STENCH...I HAVE TASTED IT IN YOUR NIGHTMARES FOR YEARS. MY REALM IS THE ONLY PLACE THAT CAN OFFER YOU REFUGE, WITCH.

MY. NAME. IS. *WANDA.*

WHOOM!!!

WE'RE NOT DONE, *WITCH!!!*

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

THROUGH THE TIME DOOR! WE NEED TO GET TO THE CHRONOMONITOR BAY!

YOU GUYS GO! I'LL GET JIMMY OUT OF HOLDING... WE GON' NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!

I TAKE IT SOMETHING HAPPENED?

WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THIS, CASEY. THEY'RE GOING TO BRING THE WHOLE TVA DOWN ON OUR HEADS.

STOPPING THEM WON'T BE AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS. THEY ARE FEEDING OFF EACH OTHER. SOMETHING ABOUT WANDA IS POWERING NIGHTMARE, AND SHE'S ***ABSORBING*** POWER HE'S UNLEASHING ON HER.

HER NIGHTMARES. HE SAID HE'S BEEN FEEDING ON THEM FOR YEARS.

WELL, OF COURSE. HER WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN A NIGHTMARE, HASN'T IT?

IF SHE'D STOP BLOWING THE PLACE UP, I'LL BET SHE'D FIT RIGHT IN.

WHY WOULD SHE HELP THIS PLACE? THEY LITERALLY FRIDGED HER.

NO ONE KNEW SHE WAS DOWN THERE, SYLVIE. THERE'S A LOT ABOUT THIS PLACE WE DON'T KNOW.

BUT THEY KNOW NOW. AND THEY'LL PUT HER BACK.

FOR NOW. FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY, SYLVIE. BUT I PROMISE YOU, WE WILL FIND A WAY TO SET THIS RIGHT.

LOOK OUT!

CRAAASSSHH

POP!

ALL RIGHT, I NEED EVERYONE TO STAY STILL--I HAVE BACKUP ON THE WAY!

WANDA IS OVER HERE-- I DON'T SEE NIGHTMARE!

THEY'RE SEPARATED! THIS IS OUR CHANCE!!!

GWEN! I SENT YOU THE COORDINATES TO AN OPEN CRYO POD IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFERMENT. OPEN THE DOOR, GET HER THROUGH IT. WE HAVE HUNTERS DOWN THERE, READY TO LOCK IT.

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, MOBIUS...

...THIS IS MY CHANCE.

SIGH HELLO, FATHER.

DO YOU AT LEAST WANT TO KNOW WHAT MY CRIME WAS?

WE'VE ALL DONE THINGS WE'RE NOT PROUD OF, WANDA. THERE ARE VARIANTS OF YOU WHO ARE HEROES, AND SOME WHO ARE VILLIANS.

AND YOU WANT TO KNOW WHICH SIDE I'M ON NOW.

I NEED TO KNOW IF YOU'RE DANGEROUS.

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CALLING ME ***DANGEROUS*** MY WHOLE LIFE.

WHEN MY BROTHER WAS SHOT BY A PROTESTER AFTER SOKOVIA, I JOINED THE AVENGERS TO SHOW I WASN'T A VILLAIN, BUT I DID THAT WRONG.

I ***GRIEVED*** WRONG--I EVEN ***DIED*** WRONG, WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE.

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAW WHEN I WAS IN THE IN-BETWEEN IN THAT POD?

I WATCHED DR. STRANGE MINDWIPE AN ENTIRE WORLD SO A TEENAGER COULD GET INTO COLLEGE.

I WATCHED THIS PLACE ADMIT THAT THE TIME-KEEPERS--THE ONES WHO SUPPOSEDLY DECIDED THAT I SHOULD LOSE ***EVERYTING, MORE THAN ONCE***--WEREN'T REAL.

AND THEY WEREN'T CALLED MONSTERS. THEY WEREN'T LOCKED AWAY.

YOU'RE HOLDING THAT TEMPAD. YOU'RE HOLDING MY FATE. ARE YOU A HERO? OR A VILLAIN? BECAUSE I'M NEITHER.

I WILL NOT BE ANYONE'S HERO. I WILL NOT BE ANYONE'S VILLAIN...

...AND I AM ***NOT*** GOING BACK IN THAT BOX.

DREAMQUEEN. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. I FELT MY REALM'S ENERGY HERE LONG BEFORE I BREACHED THE WALLS. YOU HAVE IMPRESSED ME, DAUGHTER. NOW WE CAN COMBINE OUR POWERS AND--

SHHHH, SEE, THAT'S WHERE YOU GOT IT WRONG, DAD. I DIDN'T COME HERE TO ENACT YOUR PLAN. I CAME HERE TO ENACT MINE.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY EONS I'VE HAD TO WATCH YOU BOTCH PLAN AFTER PLAN BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T JUST...WAIT? I WANTED TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

SO, I CAME HERE. I WORKED A DESK JOB. I GOT COFFEE. I LEARNED HOW TO USE THE COPIER, ALL WHILE SCOPING OUT SOME OF THIS PLACE'S DARKEST SECRETS.

AND THEN...THERE YOU WERE, JUMPING THE GUN. SLIPPING INTO DREAMS USING THE SAME ENERGY SIGNATURE I USE WITH MY MAGIC. PUTTING ME AT RISK IF O.B. TRACED IT BACK TO ME.

SO I CREATED THE MADNESS TO KEEP THEM BUSY WHILE I HUNTED YOU. BUT WHEN YOU FOUND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFERMENT AND STARTED LURING GWEN THERE...I HAD TO RAMP THINGS UP.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STABBED MOBIUS.

DESPERATE TIMES. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I WAS GOING TO STOP YOU YET.

SO YOU BOUGHT TIME AND HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.

SEE... THERE YOU GO AGAIN, BEING IMPATIENT.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE... I KNOW THIS PLACE. FOR INSTANCE, I *KNOW* YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT ABOVE R&A.

BOOOOM

SHAKE!!

I TIRE OF THIS CAT AND MOUSE GAME.

YOU INSOLENT--

AHHHHHH!!!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH
I TOLD YOU THAT SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT ABOUT THAT CAT!

I DON'T WANT THIS...THIS POWER, THIS DECISION, THIS MOMENT THAT ASKS ME TO DECIDE IF SHE'S GOOD OR EVIL. I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF LIFE TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE ARE RARELY JUST A HERO OR JUST A VILLAIN.

EXCEPT NIGHTMARE--HE CAN KICK ROCKS.

I AM IN ***CONTROL*** NOW. THE SCARLET WITCH IS PART OF ME--SHE ALWAYS WILL BE. THOUGH I KNOW THAT ONCE THE TVA MAKES A DECISION, IT'S POINTLESS TO ARGUE.

I CAN'T LET YOU HURT PEOPLE, WANDA. WE CAN SORT OUT YOUR FREEDOM WITH B-15 AFTER...

...BUT YOU HAVE TO GO BACK ON ICE IN THE MEANTIME. YOU'RE TOO POWERFUL.

NO. WAIT.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME NOT TO FALL FOR HAPPY ENDINGS. YOU WERE RIGHT. HOPE GOT US INTO THIS MESS... I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU.

HAPPY ENDINGS OR NOT...WE'RE ALL WRITING OUR OWN STORIES NOW.

IF THE TVA IS DIFFERENT, ***REALLY*** DIFFERENT...IT HAS TO GET COMFORTABLE NOT KNOWING THE ANSWER TO THAT. AND WE HAVE TO ***HOPE*** FOR THE BEST, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD.

WE'RE LETTING HER GO.

BEEP!

HOW CAN WE FIND YOU IF WE NEED HELP? IF WE NEED YOU TO...***ASSEMBLE?***

YOU ***DON'T.*** WHEN I WALK OUT THAT DOOR...

...I'M NOT AN AVENGER.

I AM GOING TO NEED YOU ALL TO STOP MOVING, GUYS! YOU'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A SERIOUS TRAUMA, AND I NEED TO TRIAGE!

STOP BEIN' A MOTHER HEN, DOC, THEY'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH WORSE THAN THIS.

DOC IS DOIN' 'ER JOB, *MM*. WHICH YOU COULD ALSO BE HELPIN' WIF, YA KNOW.

I NEED ALL Y'ALL TO REMEMBER THAT YOU BOTH CAME FROM *MY* CODE.

AS THOUGH WE COULD FORGET, LOVE--O.B., ARE YOU GOING TO REBOOT THOSE ELEVATORS, OR DO I HAVE TO? IT'S CTRL-ALT-N. I AIN'T GOT ALL DAY...

LAY OFF HIM, SECONDS. THE WALLS HAVE BARELY STOPPED SHAKING.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU GUYS HAD QUITE THE NIGHT.

YOU SAID IT, CAPITAIN. I TOLD WEBS TO GET A NEW HOBBY. SLEEPWALKING IS A NIGHTMARE.

AND I GAVE A PITY LAUGH TO THAT JOKE, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MANY TENETS OF MY TEN-PART APOLOGY TOUR.

BUT AT LEAST WE SOLVED IT. THE MADNESS IS NO MORE. NIGHTMARE IS VANQUISHED.

WHAT DID THIS LITTLE *CHATTE* DO WITH HIM?

MAGGIE SPIT HIM UP DIRECTLY INTO A HOLDING CELL LINED WITH THE ENERGY OF GOOD DREAMS. YOU GUYS GOT LUCKY WITH THAT ONE...NOT MANY CREATURES ***TRIP*** INTO A FLERKEN.

...IT WASN'T *LUCK*.

I'LL TELL YA LATER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT ALL SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED OUT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WANDA GETTING AWAY. I'M GLAD YOU GUYS SURVIVED THAT THOUGH. COULD HAVE BEEN A LOT WORSE. AND CASEY IS RUNNING A TRACE ON HER.

MY CONTACTS HAVE EYES ON THE TIMELINE AS WELL. IF SHE SHOWS UP DOWN THERE... WE'LL KNOW.

PIE?

COUNT ME IN. INGRID?

DUH.

YOU'RE BUYING, BY THE WAY.

BECAUSE YOU'RE--

STILL PROCESSING THE TRAUMA OF BEING WRONGLY ACCUSED AND ARRESTED. CORRECT.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE RIDING THAT PONY?

LONG ENOUGH THAT INGRID WILL BE OVERSEEING THE INSTALLATION OF MY MONUMENT.

SURE, JIMMY...

THIS IS THE NEW TVA. WE'RE GETTING RID OF OLD SECRETS AND...MAYBE KEEPING SOME NEW ONES. BUT AT LEAST, FOR NOW, THAT NIGHTMARE IS OVER. AND WHATEVER COMES, WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER.

...KEEP DREAMING.

FOR ALL TIME, ALWAYS.

THE END.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE TVA

HEY THERE, DOC CLOCK HERE. YOU WORK HERE AT THE TVA, SO YOU KNOW...

...FOR EVERY *CHOICE* YOU MAKE, THERE'S ANOTHER TIMELINE IN WHICH THAT CHOICE WENT A *DIFFERENT* WAY.

WHICH MEANS, FOR EVERY *MISTAKE* YOU MAKE, THERE'S A TIMELINE IN WHICH YOU *DIDN'T* MESS UP!

HOORAY!

BUT IF YER A *SMART COOKIE*, YER THINKING, *"HOLD ON A TICK--DON'T THAT IMPLY THERE'S SOME **ME** WHO'S MADE THE **RIGHT DECISION** EVERY **SINGLE** TIME?"*

*"IS THERE REALLY SOME **PERFECT SELF** OUT THERE, UNTOUCHED BY ALL 'A MY FAILURE AND REGRET?"*

YES, MATE: THERE *IS.* AND I GOTTA TELL YA--THEY'RE *TERRIFIC.*

JUST A TOP-NOTCH PERSON, ALL 'ROUND. FUNNY TOO--AN' *GREAT* AT PARTIES!

AND NOW YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING, *"BUT GIVEN HOW MAKING EVEN **ONE SINGLE MISTAKE** IN MY **ENTIRE LIFE** MEANS I'M NOT EVEN THE BEST VERSION OF **MYSELF**...*

*"...CAN I **EVEN HAVE** PRIDE IN WHO I AM?"*

GOOD NEWS! THE TVA'S PSYCHIATRIC ARBITRATION FORCE SAYS: *"YES!"*

SO IF YER EVER FEELING DOWN...

...JUST TURN THAT FROWN *UPSIDE DOWN*, DARLIN', AND REMEMBER: YOU'RE *PERFECT** THE WAY YOU ARE!

*ACCEPTABLE.

REMEMBER: ANY WORRYING THAT PAST MISTAKES HAVE CHANGED YOU IN WAYS YOU CAN NEVER TAKE BACK HURTS EVERYONE'S PRODUCTIVITY!

RYAN NORTH - WRITER *ENID BALÁM* - ARTIST *RACHELLE ROSENBERG* - COLOR ARTIST *VC's JOE SABINO* - LETTERER

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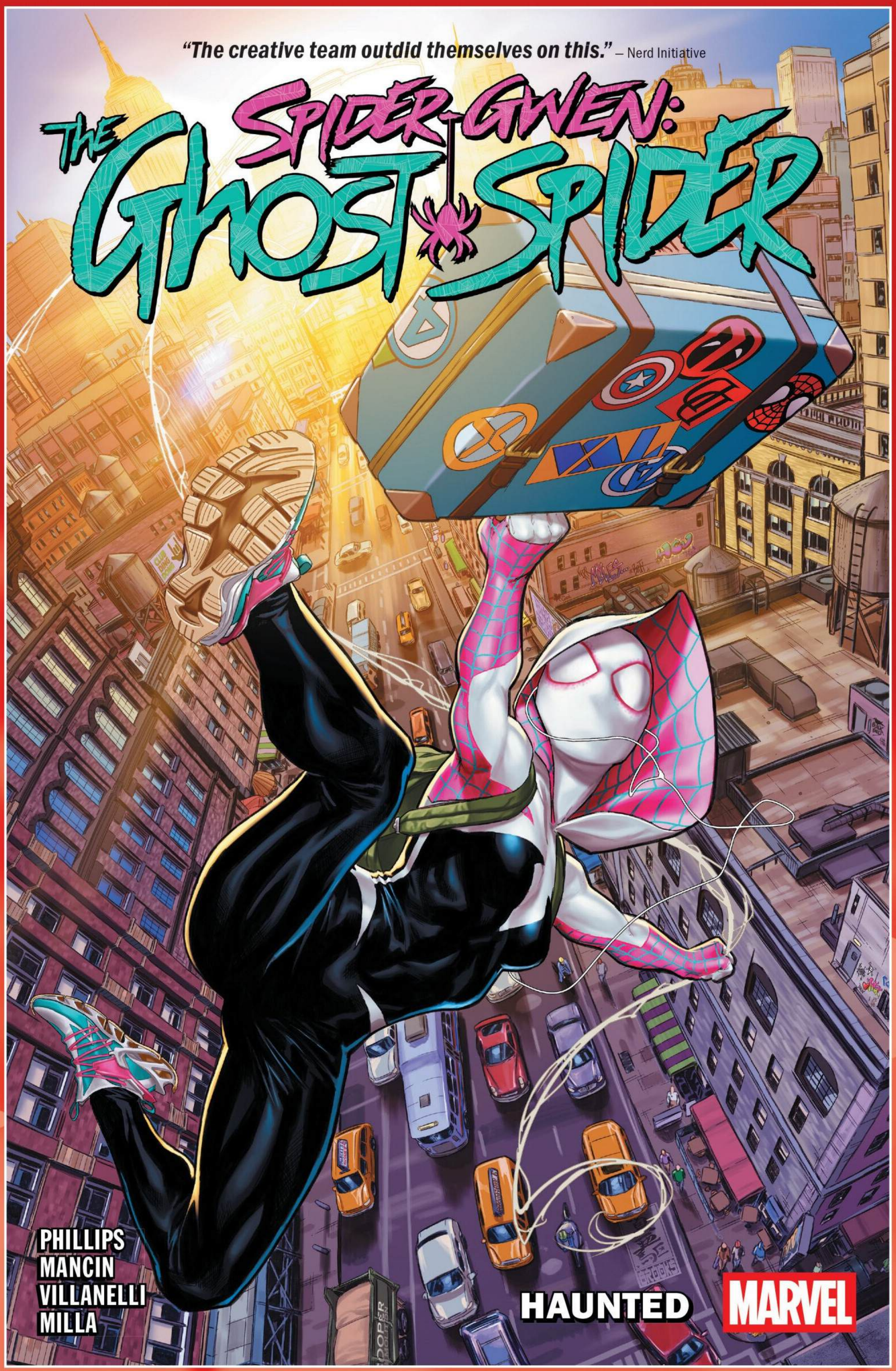

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